

Website Comment **193638**

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Comment: I support very limited exploration and development of NPRA oil and gas. North Slope oil and gas development could result in a long-term displacement and/or functional loss of habitat for the Central Arctic Herd (CAH), Teshekpuk Lake Herd (TLH), and Western Arctic Herd (WAH) of caribou. Oil development in the Prudhoe Bay-Kuparuk area could be a cause of an observed shift in central arctic caribou calving distribution away from its calving range near the oil fields. Calving by TLH caribou could be reduced near the pipeline corridors, which would have a potential long-term (several-generation) effect on the distribution of the TLH caribou.

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Caribou

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Subsistenc

Access to subsistence-hunting areas and subsistence resources, and the use of subsistence resources would change if oil development were to reduce the availability of subsistence resources or alter their distribution patterns. The communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Barrow, and Nuiqsut would be most affected. Caribou could become unavailable, undesirable for use, or experience long-term population and productivity effects for a period longer than 5 years. These effects could disrupt sociocultural systems in the communities that are reliant on caribou for subsistence. Effects would be expected to disrupt community activities and traditional practices for harvesting, sharing, and processing subsistence resources.

Attached: None